M 1845
Compliments

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

LINCOLN DAY PROCLAMATION

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

ARAM J. POTHIER, GOVERNOR.

Upwards of eighty millions of people throughout the vast expanse of the American Republic—heirs by birth or adoption of the perfect freedom it symbolizes—will unite on the twelfth day of February next in reflective contemplation that one hundred years ago was born the man to whose sublime existence they owe, in large measure, that priceless heritage which all alike enjoy to-day.

It is a worthy commentary on the temperament of a united people, living as brothers but a generation after his successful struggle for equality had ended, that to-day an enlightened and prosperous American citizenship, blest with the fullness of learning and culture, halts in its irresistible onward march to bow in deferential homage to the lofty patriotism and magnificent spirit of Abraham Lincoln.

Surmounting obstacles of birth and poverty beyond the comprehension of the present age, setting a new standard for American ideals, and standing valiantly by the colors he implanted thereon until there was firmly welded the Union we glorify to-day; the martyred President, on this centenary of his birth, speaks from the tomb living lessons of loyalty,

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steadfastness, and indomitable devotion to duty—lessons which the youth of the land must learn, that this great Republic may endure.

All over this broad land—in the schools and universities, from the forum and about the banquet board, in churches and in public institutions —his praises will be sung, his deeds rehearsed, and his immortal words will resound.

In recognition of the nation-wide significance of the day, therefore, let the citizens of Rhode Island dedicate

Friday, the 12th day of February, A. D. 1909,

to such forms of patriotic observance as have been our custom in honoring other great historic anniversaries.

Let there be a general suspension of business, that the day be not allowed to pass unheeded by our industrial classes.

Let the school children, with patriotic exercises, assemble in their classrooms on this Grand Army Flag Day, that its inspiring lessons may become impressed upon those who are to make up our future generations.

And let all citizens on this day momentarily pause and reflect upon how much we owe the memory of Lincoln, for what we have and are to-day.

As an observance of the day on the part of the State, I have ordered that a salute of one hundred guns be fired from the State House grounds at 12 o'clock noon, by a detachment of Light Battery A, Rhode Island National Guard.

Given under my hand and seal this twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred nine, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred thirty-third.

[SEAL]

ARAM J. POTHIER.

By the Governor,

CHARLES P. BENNETT,

Secretary of State.

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